

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 7, 11-16



Isaac and Jacob

For a long time Abraham and Sarah had no children. Then God blessed Sarah, and when she was quite old, she had a son, called Isaac.



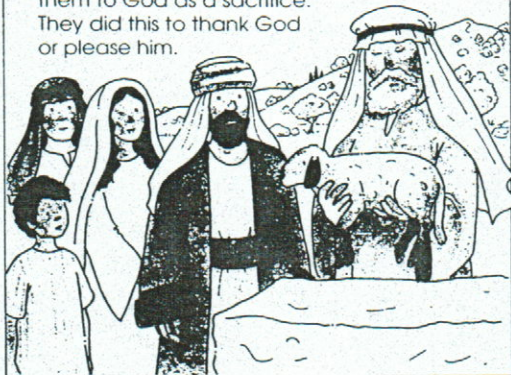
Abraham, do not kill Isaac. Now I know that you are obedient to me. I will bless you. You will have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky.

God tests Abraham

Isaac was very precious to Abraham. God tested Abraham's obedience by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. So Abraham took Isaac to a deserted place, but just as he was about to kill his son, God spoke to him.

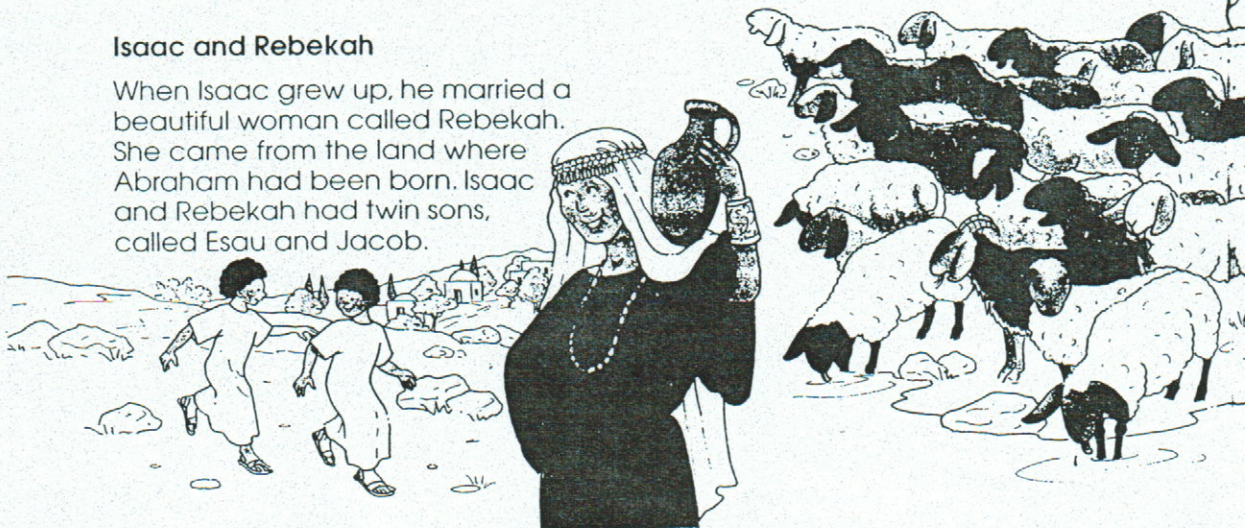
Sacrifices

To make a "sacrifice" means to give up something that is precious to you. In Bible times people killed animals and offered them to God as a sacrifice. They did this to thank God or please him.



Isaac and Rebekah

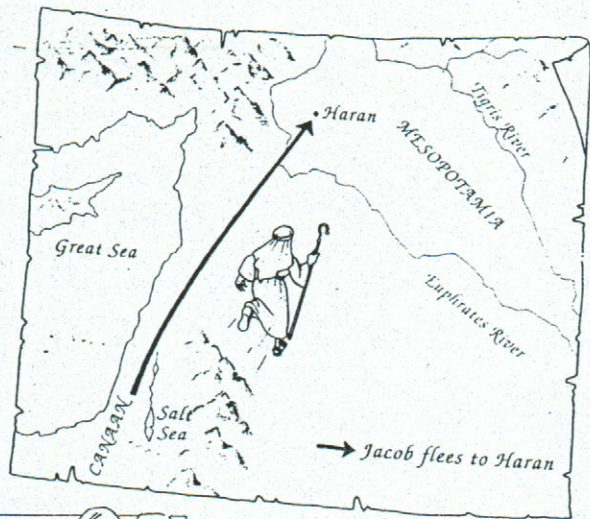
When Isaac grew up, he married a beautiful woman called Rebekah. She came from the land where Abraham had been born. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, called Esau and Jacob.





Esau and Jacob

Esau was the elder of the twins, so he was due to receive the birthright and blessing from their father, Isaac. Jacob was jealous of Esau, so with the help of his mother, he tricked Esau out of his birthright and blessing.



Birthright

The firstborn son always became head of the family after his father's death. He also inherited a double share of his father's possessions. This was called the "birthright," and with it came his father's blessing for the future.



Jacob leaves Canaan

Esau swore to kill Jacob once his father was dead. So Jacob fled to Haran to work for his uncle, who was called Laban.



God blesses Jacob

After twenty years at Haran, Jacob owned huge flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and had two wives, called Rachel and Leah. They all returned to Canaan where Esau welcomed Jacob and forgave him for taking his birthright. At that time God blessed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel.

